

## PRESIDENT APPEALS TO WARRING NATIONS

### Sends Note Suggesting Opportunity for Comparison of Views to End War

### Would Have Precise Objects of War Set Forth—Says Concrete Purposes for Which War is Being Waged Have Never Been Definitely Understood

President Wilson, through the Secretary of State, last week sent notes to the European belligerent nations suggesting a comparison of views as to the terms on which they will consider peace. With an introductory slightly different to each of the Entente Allies and the Central Powers, the text of the note is as follows:

"The President suggests, that an early occasion be sought to call out from all the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future as would make it possible frankly to compare them.

"He is indifferent as to the means taken to accomplish this. He would be happy himself to serve, or even to take the initiative in its accomplishment, in any way that might prove acceptable, but he has no desire to determine the method or the instrumentality. One way will be as acceptable to him as another if only the great object he has in mind be attained.

#### Their Objects Similar.

"He takes the liberty of calling attention to the fact that the objects which the statesmen of the belligerents on both sides have in mind in this war are virtually the same, as stated in general terms to their own people and to the world. Each side desires to make the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small States as secure against aggression or denial in the future as the rights and privileges of the great and powerful States now at war.

"Each wishes itself to be made secure in the future, along with all other nations and peoples, against the recurrence of wars like this and against aggression of selfish interference of any kind. Each would be jealous of the formation of any more rival leagues to preserve an uncertain balance of power amidst multiplying suspicions; but each is ready to consider the formation of a league of nations to insure peace and justice throughout the world.

"Before that final step can be taken, however, each deems it necessary first to settle the issues of the present war upon terms which certainly will safeguard the independence, the territorial integrity and the political and commercial freedom of the nations involved.

#### U. S. Is Interested, Too.

"In the measure to be taken to secure the future peace of the world the people and Government of the United States are as vitally and as directly interested as the Governments now at war. Their interests, moreover, in the means to be adopted to relieve the smaller and weaker peoples of the world of the peril of wrong and violence is as quick and ardent as that of any other people or Government.

"They stand ready, and even eager, to co-operate in the accomplishment of these ends, when the war is over, with every influence and resource at their command. But the war first must be concluded. The terms upon which it is to be concluded they are not at liberty to suggest; but the President does feel it his right and his duty to point out their intimate interests in its conclusions, lest it should presently be too late to accomplish the greater things which lie beyond its conclusion, lest the situation of neutral nations, now exceedingly hard to endure, be rendered altogether intolerable, and lest, more than all, an injury be done civilization itself which never can be atoned for or repaired.

#### He Would Have Them Act Now.

"The President therefore feels alto-

gether justified in suggesting an immediate opportunity for a comparison of views as to the terms which must precede those ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world, which all desire and in which the neutral nations as well as those at war are ready to play their full responsible part.

"If the contest must continue to proceed toward indefinite ends by slow attrition until the one group of belligerents or the other is exhausted, if million after million of human lives must continue to be offered until on the one side or the other there are no more to offer, if resentments must be kindled that never can cool and despair engendered from which there can be no recovery, hopes of peace and the willing consent of free peoples will be rendered vain and idle.

"The life of the entire world has been profoundly affected. Every part of the great family of mankind has felt the burden and terror of this unprecedented contest of arms.

#### War's Object Still Unstated.

"No nation in the civilized world can be said in truth to stand outside its influence or to be safe against its disturbing effects. And yet the concrete objects for which it is being waged never have been definitely stated.

"The leaders of the several belligerents, have, as has been said, stated those objects in general terms. But, stated in general terms, they seem the same on both sides. Never yet have the authoritative spokesmen of either side avowed the precise objects which would, if attained, satisfy them and their people that the war had been fought out. The world has been left to conjecture what definite results, what actual exchange of guaranties, what political and territorial changes or readjustments, what stage of military success ever would bring the war to an end.

#### Nearer Than We Know.

"It may be that peace is nearer than we know; that the terms which the belligerents on the one side and on the other would deem it necessary to insist upon are not so irreconcilable as some have feared; that an interchange of views would clear the way at least for conference and make the permanent concord of the nations a hope of the immediate future, a concert of nations immediately practicable.

"The President is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations with the belligerents, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense increasing longing. He believes the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world."

The note to the Entente group will be delivered to Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, Belgium, Montenegro, Portugal, Roumania and Serbia. That to the Central Allies will be delivered to Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria.

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## The Witness In the West

The retirement of Mr. Bryan from the chief post in the cabinet of President Wilson last year was hailed with scarcely concealed glee by the Republican leaders and newspapers. The Wilson administration was doomed, they said. The passage of uncommonly cordial expression of regard between the President and Mr. Bryan at the time of their official separation excited only their jeers. Even from those who should have known better came intimations that the great Nebraskan would turn upon Mr. Wilson.

It long ago became a Republican maxim—almost an eastern maxim—that Mr. Bryan is an unscrupulous person. So the East resolved, 20 years ago or so, in their opinion, he must be. They have taught themselves that sincerity, so far as W. J. Bryan is concerned, is non-existent—and that is one of the reasons that they were unprepared for what came to pass a week ago.

Now the truth is that sincerity and direct, forward going honesty of purpose and action are the characteristics that distinguish this western gentleman. Perhaps he lacks the aptitude for finesse, perhaps he is poor to the quickness, the cunning, the trained and swift adroitness of intellect, that define political talent in the East. Perhaps, for that reason, in the East he is not understood. He violates the ancient rules of play. He is not vengeful and angry when, to the Eastern mind, he ought to be. Hence he is inscrutable.

Hence, for the same reason, the West knows Mr. Bryan. The West looks upon a very human sort of man, of robust mind and not without imperfections yet withal sincere, big of purpose, who goes right on with steps true to those larger principles of righteousness and justice than men learn as children. So the West understands Bryan and to the West it is not strange that, though out of the cabinet, he is Wilson's friend.

That Nebraska has voted for Wilson is no singular phenomenon in the West. Nor does it call for explanation that everywhere that Bryan journeyed, defending the policies of the Wilson administration, explaining and impressing them, the people voted for Wilson on election day. To be sure they were not voting for Mr. Bryan. Indeed, their inclination was to vote for Mr. Wilson. But Bryan was the witness for Wilson that they wanted; he was the supporter of the Wilson cause that they trusted, whom they gladly heard because they knew him.

It is no new thing that with a whole and single heart William J. Bryan serves his country. The zeal of the West that the man shall rule in this republic Bryan lighted 20 years ago. In the convention at Baltimore it was Bryan that set his great party in the path that since that day it has trod. It is Bryan that since 1916 is the sponsor for Wilson whom the people heed. New York and Boston sneer at Bryan—but the country moves on.—Columbia (S. C.) State.

#### PROPOSED NEW TAX BILL

Proposed bills to increase State revenues and to create a State Tax Commission, to be introduced in the forthcoming session of the Legislature, were received and discussed by the Gardner conference on taxation at the Planters Hotel in St. Louis on last Thursday. This was the second meeting of the conference and it will be the last of the conferences to be held in St. Louis, before the meeting of the Legislature, to consider legislation which Gov.-elect Frederick D. Gardner wishes to have enacted.

The attendance at the conference was smaller than at the other. Some of the members of the committees appointed to draft proposed bills were unable to attend. James P. Boyd, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, is chairman.

Secretary of State Roach, chairman of the committee appointed to draft the bill to create a State tax commission, presented a copy of a bill, the object of which was to secure perfect equality in the matter of assessment of property. In explanation of his proposed bill, Roach said that if property was assessed equally throughout the State, there would be no duties for the State Board of Equalization to perform.

As the Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer and Attorney General, by the Constitution, constitute the Board of Equalization, it is possible to create by statute a tax commission with powers subsidiary to the board. The form of bill written by Roach designated this body as the Missouri Commission on Economics and Finance, with control over both the income and expenditures of the State. He proposed three members of the Commission, leaving the matter of salary to the judgment of the conference, but suggested \$3000 or \$5000 a year for each member. Not more than two members of the commission shall be of the same political party.

Committees having charge of the mortgage tax, increase of saloon license, pool room and soft drink tax, and other revenue raising bills authorized by the last conference will report tentative forms of their bills during the session.

#### INSURGENTS PLAN FIGHT TO CHANGE RULES IN HOUSE

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—Independent members of the incoming House of Representatives are planning an organization to work apart from both Democrats and Republicans, with the avowed purpose of enforcing radical changes in the rules.

This far no plans have been made for voting as a body in the speaker's fight, but it is not impossible that such an arrangement will be attempted later. Informal conferences among independents now in Congress have resulted in an agreement that some-



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#### WELCOME TO MR. BRYAN

Raleigh is glad to give welcome to William J. Bryan today, for he is a man held in high esteem and in great admiration in this city. Coming on a visit to his daughter whose home is in Raleigh the opportunity has been given to have a luncheon in his honor, this under the direction of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.

Republicans, as well as Democrats, can well do honor to Mr. Bryan, for while he is a Democrat who has rendered high service to his party, yet all Americans have had his services in his fights against the interests in behalf of the people. He is a Democrat deserving the appreciation of men in all parties.

In the recent presidential campaign Mr. Bryan proved a tower of strength to the Democratic party. He toured the West and his speeches in behalf of the re-election of President Wilson were of such power as to add to the Democratic vote. His course—and he did only what his friends knew he would do—has been such as to confound his critics, who were never so happy as when picturing Bryan taking leave of President Wilson with "God bless you" on his lips and a knife behind his back. The papers of the country which indulged in that sort of thing are due Mr. Bryan an apology.

Mr. Bryan has visited Raleigh a number of times, and on those occasions he has added to the number of his personal friends. These are glad that today they have opportunity of doing him honor, their tribute to be to the man who has done service in behalf of the masses of the people. And they are glad also that in this city there resides a daughter of Mr. Bryan, for that means that he is to make other visits here. The welcome given today will be a welcome which comes from men who know that he is a man whom it is an honor to honor.—Raleigh (S. C.) News and Observer.

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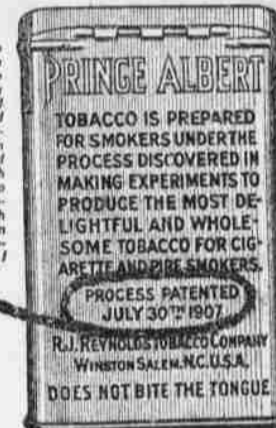
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#### JEWISH CHARITY FOR JEWS—\$3,000,000 RAISED FOR RELIEF IN ONE NIGHT

New York, Dec. 22.—Rabbi Leon Harrison of Temple Israel, St. Louis, and Senator Reed of Missouri, were the Chief speakers at a Jewish relief rally in Carnegie Hall last night. About \$3,000,000 was raised toward a \$10,000,000 fund for the relief of Jews in the war districts of Europe.

Dr. Judah L. Magnes, who as a special investigator for the organizations which purpose to raise the fund, went abroad and for several months studied at first hand the conditions of his coreligionists in Poland, Lithuania and Galicia, told of the great sufferings of Europe's noncombatants.

"I bring you greetings, Jews of America, from the Jewish people who are almost about to die," Dr. Magnes began. "I bring you greetings from a starving people, but a people that is invincible and full of hope."

He told of 75,000 Jews in Warsaw standing in line in front of a soup kitchen, dependent for subsistence upon contributions from America; he told of 50,000 who are fed daily in Vilna, but of 5,000 in that town who must daily be turned away with empty cups for lack of money.

One hundred thousand dollars in a lump sum was given by Jacob H. Schiff of this city and Julius Rosenwald of Chicago. Fifty thousand dollars each was contributed by Nathan Straus and Felix M. Warburg. Then there were \$25,000, \$20,000, \$10,000 a plenty.

Before the contribution baskets were passed through the audience individuals had contributed \$466,875. From other cities had come cash of pledges to the amount of \$1,854,000. There seemed a frenzy of enthusiasm about the giving. The baskets, carried through the house by young women, came back filled to overflowing with bills and silver, checks and envelopes upon which were written pledges. The poor Jew in the gallery, moved to tears by the eloquent descriptions he heard of the plight of his fellow-Jew in Poland, Lithuania and Galicia, then moved to cheers by the great donations of his richer brethren, offered proportionately as much as the wealthy captain of finance or commerce on the platform. The women were as liberal as the men.

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